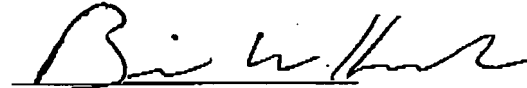


pipes together include a preloading too, and a threaded nut and collar to retain a seal between the connected/compressed together pipes. For this reason, the Applicant considers that the two groups of claims do share unity, and respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



August 8, 2007

Date

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